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HARGUINDEGUY ANNOUNCES COMMENCEMENT OF POLITICAL DIALOG

PY251859 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2345 GMT 21 Mar 80 PY

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 21 Mar (NA)--Interior Minister Albano Harguindeguy today announced that the dialog the government and armed forces will hold with the various sectors of the community will officially start on Wednesday of next week.

He said that the first person who will be interviewed has already been selected, but he refused to disclose the person's name or what sector he represents. Harguindeguy said: "I am not going to tell you whether he is a politician, a businessman, or what sector he represents."

He said that the name would be disclosed on Tuesday.

He added that this procedure will be followed in all cases, that is, the name of the person to be invited to participate in the dialog will be disclosed 24 hours before the meeting is held.

Speaking at a press conference held in the Government House press room, Harguindeguy (?said) that so far three invitations had been sent.

He noted that structure and doctrine will be discussed during the first phase of the dialog. He added that this phase will last until approximately mid-August. He noted that although the dialog "will never end," it will be implemented only after the first phase has ended.

He said that the statute on political parties and even an electoral law will be discussed during the second phase.

Harguindeguy said that the government did not want any discussions on the present situation during the first phase of the dialog. He added that those who will be invited will be contacted before each meeting to agree on what subjects will be discussed during the meeting. He said that this procedure should not be viewed as a setting of conditions but rather as a search for a better dialog.

Harguindeguy noted that each guest could attend the dialog session with six other persons of his choice. By saying this Harguindeguy implicitly acknowledged that if Ricardo Balbin is invited he will be able to attend the dialog sessions with other members of the Radical Party Board [UCR].

He said, moreover, that if necessary, a guest can also attend the sessions with advisers, or even a cabinet member if the area of work of the guest makes it necessary.

The interior minister said that at first he will hold two meetings per week, preferably in the afternoon. Later, if time allows, the number of meetings may be increased to three per week. He noted: "The ideal would be to hold as many meetings as possible per week so that the majority of Argentines may be able to provide their expertise in the making of an important document that will enrich the political bases issued by the armed forces."

Asked how the government would handle an eventual invitation to Ricardo Balbin, since the UCR board has stated that its men will only attend these meetings as UCR representatives. Harguindeguy said that only representatives will be invited.

He noted that if someone is a true representative it does not matter whether he is a member of the board or not. Those who believe that they will be invited due to the mere fact that they are members of a party board without being true representatives are wrong.

Asked whether there would be a dialog with union sectors, Harguindeguy said the union sector "is very important" within the economy and that, therefore, "it cannot be left out."

Asked if the invitations extended to political leaders could be interpreted as a lifting of the "political recess," Harguindeguy said with a smile, "I did not say that the law on political recess is or will be repealed."

After noting in answer to a question that the Catholic Church will also be invited to participate in dialog, since it participates actively in national affairs, he said that other religions that have "a reasonable number of believers" in Argentina will also be invited.

Asked whether Maria Estela Martinez de Peron would be invited to take part in the dialog, Harguindeguy said that a person who is "undergoing judicial proceedings will never be eligible for the dialog."

ARGENTINA, BRAZIL EXPLORE NUCLEAR COOPERATION

PY240008 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1241 GMT 22 Mar 80 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Mar (NA)--Argentina and Brazil have not reached "any agreement" in the nuclear field, but "they have drawn up possible patterns of cooperation between the two nations," according to two Brazilian atomic energy officials after a 1-week visit to this country.

This was reported yesterday by Paulo Nogueira Batista, president of the Brazilian Nuclear Corporation [NUCLEBRAS], and Hervasio de Carvalho, president of the Brazilian Atomic Energy Commission, during a press conference they gave at the headquarters of the National Atomic Energy Commission [CNEA].

The two Brazilian officials were invited here by CNEA to visit its installations to examine the possibility of cooperation agreements between the two nations, which would be signed by Presidents Jorge Videla and Joao Baptista Figueiredo when the latter comes here by official invitation in the middle of May. According to the explanation given during the press conference, on this occasion there was only "an attempt to identify areas of mutual interest between the two countries" which include "the complementary manufacturing of components, basic research, nuclear security, personnel training and the exploitation and production of uranium."

Nogueira Batista explained that the technologies used by the two countries are different--Brazil uses enriched uranium and Argentina uses natural uranium--but that "joint work will be highly advantageous."

He added that "after identifying common areas it is possible to think of the possibility of integration between Argentina and Brazil in the supply of components."

PUCARA FIGHTER AIRCRAFT OFFERED TO CHILE

PY212125 Paris AFP in Spanish 2047 GMT 20 Mar 80 PY

[Excerpt] Santiago, Chile, 20 Mar (AFP)--It was reported here that Argentina is willing to sell Argentine-made fighters to Chile. A fighter of this type, the Pucara IA-58, is currently in Chile taking part in flight tests as part of the 50th anniversary celebration of the Chilean Air Force. "The willingness to show the Pucara without any reservations is proof of the spirit of cooperation of the Argentine Air Force (FAA) with its counterparts in Latin America," said Capt Carlos Antonio Tomba, head of the FAA officers and technicians who operate the airplane. He added "Argentina is willing to sell nationally made airplanes to Chile or any other country."

STATE OF EMERGENCY PREVAILS IN ARMED FORCES

PY260233 La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 0200 GMT 26 Mar 80 PY

[Text] Today's political panorama is completed with the news that there is a state of emergency in the armed forces. Military sources have reported to Radio Fides that there is a general confinement to barracks of military personnel throughout the country. The reasons for this state of emergency were not clearly explained, but it is known that the measure has been taken for precautionary reasons.

NEW INTERIOR MINISTER CALLS ON PEOPLE TO REMAIN CALM

PY251332 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 24 Mar 80 PY

[Text] In accordance with a government decree, Gen Antonio Arnez Camacho assumed the duties of acting interior minister yesterday. He will remain in an acting capacity until President Lidia Gueiler appoints his replacement in the Defense Ministry. Several circumstances prevented Arnez Camacho from being formally installed as acting minister; therefore, the ceremony was postponed.

This is an interview obtained by our reporter (Andres Alarcon):

[Begin Arnez recording] [word indistinct] I have spoken to her excellency, the president, and by goverrment decree I am assuming responsibility for the Interior Ministry as acting minister.

During this difficult time I will put all my efforts at the service of the nation in order to seek understanding and apply the law to all the problems which are currently affecting the people and the public administration of the country.

[Question indistinct]

There are all sorts of reports from different parts of the country. (?I call) on the entire population, all citizens to remain calm. The Interior Ministry, I repeat, will dedicate all its efforts, will gather all official information in order to safeguard peace and tranquillity and find the guilty ones and place them at the disposal of the law.

[Question indistinct]

There are all kinds of reports from Santa Cruz, but they do not constitute intelligence but [word indistinct] information. There is interest among all political sectors in creating an atmosphere of anxiety in the country. We have information in connection with the armed forces. We have information that leftist sectors are going to create disorder. We have information which would encourage some sectors of the armed forces to go out [word indistinct].

I believe that [words indistinct] a favorable situation is being created for starting subversive activity in the country, but this information has not been evaluated. We have evidence, all of us, [words indistinct] things that occurred. Also tonight, efforts are being made to make the people [passage indistinct].

[Question] [words indistinct] when you assume the position of acting interior minister will you take drastic steps to give the people the tranquillity they expect?

[Answer] These are the specific functions of the Interior Ministry. [end recording]

These were the remarks of Antonio Arnez Camacho as he left the government house.

The ceremony to install the minister was supposed to take place last night. The speech which the president was going to deliver had already been written. Gen Antonio Arnez Camacho came to the government house to be sworn in as interior minister, but the ceremony was not held because of the political problems affecting the country.

SITUATION IN SANTA CRUZ REPORTED NORMAL

PY251819 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1705 GMT 25 Mar 80 PY

[By Rene Villegas]

[Excerpt] La Paz, 23 Mar (LATIN)--The government of President Lidia Gueiler today sent a commission of high-ranking military commanders to Santa Cruz, 900 kilometers southeast of here, in order to evaluate the scope of an alleged military movement opposed to the Bolivian democratic process.

Official sources told LATIN that the chief of state and her cabinet are meeting in the government house awaiting the return of the two high military officials sent to Santa Cruz early this morning.

In Santa Cruz, however, where--according to the Catholic morning newspaper PRESENCIA--a subversive military action reportedly took place in the past few hours, the situation was "completely normal today after a few tense moments last night," according to a telephone report to LATIN from Calixto Arancibia, secretary of the departmental prefecture.

The rumors about an alleged coup circulated at a time when Bolivia is making preparations for general elections on 29 June with the objective of stabilizing the democratic system, which has been persistently interrupted by coups. Arancibia added that Gen Jorge Aguila, army chief of staff, and Gen Waldo Bernal, acting commander of the air force--sent to Santa Cruz by presidential order--concluded their meetings with the chiefs and officers of various military units of this city this morning.

Arancibia added that the two high-ranking military officers indicated to the press in Santa Cruz only that they "held routine meetings of an evaluative nature." He added: "The situation is completely normal, and the guards, which were reinforced in some military units, have been reduced.

Meanwhile, the minister of defense, Gen Antonio Arnez, was summoned to Congress today to give an urgent report on the internal situation of the country as a result of rumors about an alleged "coup" in Santa Cruz, sources in Congress said.

Conflicting Rumors in Santa Cruz

PY251928 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1845 GMT 25 Mar 80 PY

[Text] La Paz, 25 Mar (TELAM-ANSA)--Gen Luis Garcia Meza, commander of the military school, is reportedly entrenched in Santa Cruz City with the intention of initiating an action to overthrow Mrs Lidia Gueiler's government, according to reports partly published today by the morning paper PRESENCIA.

Disturbing reports of coup plans were arriving from Santa Cruz, 800 km east of La Paz, until last night, while the radio stations of that city were reporting a wave of dynamite attacks and machinegun fire. In view of these reports, the air force and army chiefs of staff, Gen Waldo Bernal and Gen Jorge Aguila, respectively, suddenly left for Santa Cruz in order to resolve the situation there.

In the meantime, military sources denied until last night that there was any truth to the rumors regarding the situation in Santa Cruz, attributing them to the alleged interest of some political sectors to discredit the armed forces. In December last year Garcia Meza attempted to oppose the military appointments made by President Gueiler, and since then he is said to have been the leader of a civilian-military sector planning a coup d'etat.

Garcia Meza has been in Santa Cruz since the middle of last week, despite the fact that his place of work is the Gualberto Villarroel Military School in La Paz. This is the officer who reacted violently 2 weeks ago when he protested U.S. warnings that it would block any Bolivian regime from coming to power as the result of a coup d'etat.

Marvin Weissman, the new U.S. ambassador, arrived in the country yesterday, and he again stated that this country would not support any regime which replaces the present constitutional government in Bolivia. The U.S. warnings elicited reactions from rightist parties and forces in the country, which accused the Washington government and Weissman of violating the self-determination of the Bolivian.

This morning, Defense Minister Antonio Arnez Camacho denied the rumors about Santa Cruz. He made the denial when he took over the Interior Ministry as acting minister.

ORGANIZATIONS, PARTIES PROCLAIM ANTIFASCIST MOBILIZATION

PY260135 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 2145 GMT 25 Mar 80 PY

[Excerpts] A few minutes ago an important meeting began at government palace between representatives of political parties and President Lidia Gueiler Tejada. The various political parties, gathered under the sponsorship of the Bolivian Labor Central [COB] have handed over a document entitled "From the Bolivian People." The representative of the Revolutionary Movement of the Left [MIR], Oscar Eid Franco, read the document which, because of its importance, we will now offer to the listeners of Radio Panamericana:

[Begin recording] [words indistinct] The National Congress, the Catholic Church, the Evangelical Methodist Church, the Bolivian University, the Permanent Human Rights Assembly, the Democratic Federation of Bolivian Women, the Bolivian Women's Union and the undersigned political fronts and parties:

1. Confirm their irrevocable decision to struggle for the defense of the democratic process which has been initiated through the effort and sacrifice of the Bolivian people against the plots of an antinational and antipopular minority who intend to stain the country with blood and carry out a new coup [words indistinct] wholly against the will of the people. We condemn the terrorist attacks committed recently by paramilitary gangs which have destroyed labor union offices, news media installations, private homes and other buildings; have murdered Luis Espinal and [words indistinct]

We demand from the government an immediate, thorough and clear investigation of those crimes and for the armed forces to conduct an investigation among their members to silence popular suspicion and allow the identification and punishment of those responsible.

We demand the immediate dismissal, trial and punishment of those who, being members of security and intelligence organizations, are found to be accomplices, authors or abettors of the terrorist.

3. [Numbering as heard] in order to hinder in an organized and democratic way (?the attempt) to reestablish the fascist dictatorship, the workers, peasants, students, teachers, professionals, [words indistinct] the whole people will organize themselves in committees for the defense of democracy in the cities, in the countryside, [words indistinct] in the villages, in the mines and mining towns, in the factories, and in the universities and schools.

The committees for the defense of democracy will be the basic instruments of the Bolivial people for: A. The defense of the democratic process and its electoral expression against all forms of fraud, postponement or interruption, for which it is demanded that the president remain personally impartial, a first expression of which should be the immediate reorganization of her cabinet and all administrative levels which directly or indirectly intervene in the electoral process; C. Support of the popular sectors in the defense of their economy.

On behalf of the Bolivian people, and striving toward these objectives, the COB, the institutions and the political fronts and parties who sign this document proclaim the initiation of the great popular and national campaign of mobilization and democratic defense which will detain fascist, antidemocratic and antinational forces and give full validity to basic liberties and rights.

La Paz, 25 March 1980.

The document is signed by Juan Lechin Oquendo, Victor Lopez, (Luis Lopez Altomirano), [name indistinct], (Miguel Ruiz), and Genaro Flores for the COB executive committee. It is signed for the Bolivian conference of religious orders of the Catholic Church with an illegible signature. The document is also signed by the Evangelical Methodist Church, the Bolivian University, the Permanent Human Rights Assembly and the Democratic Federation of Bolivian Women.

The following political fronts and parties have also signed: Hernan Siles Zuazo for the Democratic and Popular Unity with (Eugenio Aranibar Quiroga) and Jorge Kolle Cueto; Marcelo Quiroga Santa Cruz for Socialist Party No 1. (Jose Leon) for the Revolutionary Party of the Nationalist Left; Walter Guevara Arze for the Authentic Revolutionary Party; Victor Paz Estenssoro for the Historic National Revolutionary Movement; Luis Ossio Sanjines for the Christian Democratic Party. [end recording]

There were no representatives for the democratic Nationalist Action and the Bolivian Socialist Falange.

President Receives Document

PY260218 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Mar 80 PY

[Excerpts] President Lidia Gueiler Tejada expressed her satisfaction over the reaction from all the political, labor professional and university organizations to a new assault by the destabilizing forces which are trying to make the democratic process fail.

These words were used by the president during the meeting she had at government palace this afternoon with all the heads of political parties who signed the document for the defense of democracy, and with the authors of this movement of unity, who were also present--that is, the highest leaders of the Bolivian Labor Central [COB].

This is a recording of the president's words:

[Begin recording] I am really proud of having struggled for so many years for our people because I find that now, when there is an attempt to interrupt the democratic process, all parties are in agreement on the core of the matter, the defense of democracy. I believe that this is another proof on the part of the people and their representatives of their firm determination to defend this process, which is really costing us much sacrifice. But this cost has its reward, which is the unity of all the forces of this country. [end recording]

President Lidia Gueiler Tejada said that this fact will be very much taken into account by the government when it replies to all the demands contained in the document. Regarding the solution of the repugnant crime committed last Saturday, in which the priest and journalist Luis Espinal lost his life, the government will make every effort for total clarification and for the punishment of the criminals.

[Begin recording] As a first step I should tell you, regarding the repugnant murder of, what's his name, Father Espinal, that there is no doubt that the government has made absolutely every effort to discover and punish those who planned and executed the crime. You should feel completely certain that this is already being done, and we believe that in a few more days the interim interior minister will be able to report both to you and to the congress, and we will work as swiftly as possible to satisfy the wishes of both you and the people--and, above all, of the government--that this problem be finally solved. [end recording]

We conclude by reporting the statements made by COB leader Juan Lechin Oquendo regarding this and other subjects in his reply to the government.

[Begin Lechin recording] You have also mentioned to us your decision to reorganize your cabinet with persons who are a guarantee to the people of the progress of the electoral process which is costing the people so much and which is causing so much unrest among the public, particularly among the workers. We therefore express our satisfaction that you have already accepted the two main points of the document which all institutions and political parties of this country have signed. [end recording]

Congress Supports Document

FY260331 La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish 0209 GMT 26 Mar 80 FY

[Excerpts] The Bolivian Labor Central, the Bolivian Confederation of Religious Groups and most Bolivian political parties have signed a document in which they vow to defend the democratic process and repudiate coupist attempts. The document was sent to the National Congress, which convened at 1445, and it was included in today's agenda. Congressmen from the various blocs voiced their support for the document. At the end of the debate, the National Congress approved a resolution stating its full support for the document for the defense of democracy.

COB LEADER REVEALS LARGE-SCALE MURDER PLANS

FY260206 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 26 Mar 80 FY

[Radio Panamericana correspondent report from Oruro]

[Excerpts] The Bolivian Labor Central [COB] knows the names of the paramilitary fascists, and in due time it will reveal them to the people.

The murder of Luis Espinal was planned by the paramilitary gangs who are acting in c operation with the Argentine anticommunist Alliance [AAA].

This assertion was made by Oscar Sanjines, secretary general of the COB, at the end of the symbolic funeral in this city today, carried out in memory of the priest and newsman Luis Espinal, who was murdered in La Paz last Saturday.

Sanjines stated that Luis Espinal was murdered by civilian and uniformed fascists, and he stressed that the Bolivian people should be ready to respond with a general strike to any coup attempt. He concluded by revealing that the priest Espinal was one of the 116 leading Bolivian personalities, among them the whole COB Executive Secretariat, who were to have been murdered by the fascists last week.

ARMED FORCES CONDEMN MURDER OF PRIEST

PY241601 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 24 Mar 80 PY

[Text] The armed forces yesterday condemned the murder of Jesuit priest Luis Espinal and asked the government to speed up police and judicial investigations to find the perpetrators, who are against peaceful coexistence. The armed forces also promised to cooperate in the investigation of this and other terrorist acts. The communique, signed by the defense minister, the commanders of the army, air force and navy states:

The murder of the priest Espinal has created profound indignation in the armed forces, which repudiate any act of violence and condemn terrorists and their attacks against the personal integrity of all citizens and the nation in an effort to create a dangerous situation of uneasiness and fear in the country.

Nothing is solved through terrorism because the solution of Bolivian problems, whatever their magnitude, must be sought in an environment of mutual understanding, frank dialog and mutual respect in accordance with the current judicial principles in Bolivia. No one can disobey the law or take the law in his own hands or impose conditions to solve the country's vital problems, which are currently the concern of all citizens.

Those who use violence or terrorist acts in an effort to introduce methods foreign to the human sensibility of the Bolivian people must understand that nothing (?beneficial) is obtained through violence. On the contrary, with a crime such as the one committed, which has shaken the entire country, the only thing achieved is an increase in the suffering of the people and the repudiation [words indistinct] of hate and anti-Bolivian feelings.

The armed forces, aware of the need to preserve internal peace and the security of the homes and lives of all Bolivians, firmly demand of the appropriate officials that in accordance with the provisions of the law, all resources be used to carry out a thorough investigation not only of this crime, but also other acts of violence, violence that no one can permit or tolerate. The armed forces will provide full cooperation and decisive support in achieving this objective.

SOVIET MISSION MAY LEAD TO SOYBEAN MEAL PURCHASES

PY241656 Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 23 Mar 80 p 27 PY

[Excerpt] Porto Alegre--A secrecy-shrouded Soviet mission which visited Brazil and left yesterday may open the way for exports of as much as 1 million tons of soybean meal to the Soviet Union this year.

The information was provided by Rio Grande do Sul exporter Aldayr Heberle, who took the initiative of inviting the Soviet mission to Brazil in view of the U.S. boycott of grain sales to the Soviet Union. The mission consisted of three veterinarians and one agriculture expert who visited regions of agricultural production and swine and chicken raising in the Federal District, Sao Paulo, Minas Gerais, Parana and Rio Grande do Sul.

The mission, which stayed in Brazil 10 days, ended its visit in Rio Grande do Sul where the inspection of sanitary conditions in swine and chicken raising and soybean storage facilities was completed. The visit, according to Heberle, was intended to show the Soviet technicians that African swine fever has been wholly eradicated from the country and that soybean meal or other products cannot be contaminated by the virus of such a disease.

Although the initiative to bring the Soviet mission to Brazil was taken by a private exporter, officials of the Agriculture Ministry, Itamaraty and INTERBRAS [PETROBRAS International Trade Corporation] accompanied the Soviet experts throughout the visit, which was kept secret until yesterday morning when they returned home.

BRAZILIAN-BULGARIAN JOINT COMMISSION BEGINS TALKS

PY250356 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 24 Mar 80 PY

[Text] The first meeting of the Brazilian-Bulgarian joint commission began at Itamaraty today. The subject of these discussions is a new formula to increase trade between the two countries.

The Brazilian delegation is led by Foreign Ministry Secretary General Baena Soares, while the Bulgarian delegation is led by Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade (Nilvo Avramov).

LETTER OF INTENT SIGNED WITH ITALY TO BUILD FIGHTER

PY250358 Paris AFP in Spanish 0134 GMT 22 Mar 80 PY

[Excerpt] Brasilia, 21 Mar (AFP)--The Brazilian and Italian air forces signed here today a letter of intent for the construction in Brazil of the Italian AMX fighter and support plane, a Brazilian Air Ministry spokesman has told AFP.

The agreement has cleared the way for negotiations to conclude commercial agreements for the manufacturing in Brazil of the AMX plane, which is built by Aeritalia and Aermacchi.

BRIEFS

HYDROELECTRIC POTENTIAL--By the latest survey, Brazil has a potential capacity to generate 213 million kw of hydroelectricity. Only 11.5 percent of that potential capacity has so far been tapped, and the country is actually generating 28.3 million kw [as published]. [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 21 Mar 80 p 31 PY]

PINOCHET ASKS CUBILLOS TO SUBMIT RESIGNATION

PY260052 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 0035 GMT 26 Mar 80 PY

[Relayed report from Diego Portales Building by (Graciela Costera)]

[Text] President Augusto Pinochet today asked for the resignation of Foreign Minister Hernan Cubillos. The current acting foreign minister, Brig Gen Enrique Valdes Puga, will assume the post of interim foreign minister. The Foreign Ministry today will begin a new period of (?revision).

PHILIPPINES HONORARY CONSUL RESIGNS OVER INCIDENT

PY251955 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 25 Mar 80 PY

[Excerpt] Diplomatic sources have reported that Philippine honorary consul (Lovis Conio Ayans) has resigned. The diplomat, of Armenian origin, has been in charge of Philippine affairs for several years.

It was reported that the consul will leave his post as a consequence of the latest incidents between Chile and the Philippines.

FILIPINO NEWSMAN DISPUTES OFFICIAL VERSION OF INCIDENT

PY251418 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1158 GMT 25 Mar 80 PY

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile, 25 Mar (TELAM-AFP)--In an interview granted to the newspaper EL MERCURIO of this capital, Hans Menzi, the director of the principal Philippine newspaper, stated that there has never been any opposition in his country to the visit of Chilean President Augusto Pinochet.

Neither the press, the workers nor the unions have established positions in this regard, added Menzi, director of the BULLETIN TODAY of Manila.

"On the contrary, I would say that the people and government of my country were very happy about the visit of the Chilean chief of state. Moreover, the situation in the Philippines is perfectly normal," [words indistinct]. The revolts that occurred on Mindanao Island are under control, Menzi stressed.

Menzi, who visited Chile in November of last year, described himself as a personal friend of President Marcos.

Asked whether he thought that the hand of the United States could have been behind the cancellation of Pinochet's trip, Menzi said: No, in no way. We are an independent country. We only allow the United States to have military bases on our territory, and for those we charge a lot of money. We do not receive orders from the United States.

BRIEFS

PUDAHUEL AIRPORT RENAMED--Pudahuel Airport's name was changed this morning during a ceremony presided over by Chilean Air Force Commander Lt Gen Fernando Matthei. This was part of the celebration of the air force's 50th anniversary. The airport has been renamed after Air Force Col Arturo Merino Benitez, the person who organized the Chilean Air Force. [Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 19 Mar 80 PY]

REPORTAGE ON DOMINICAN EMBASSY STANDOFF

Talks Resume 26 Mar

PA252133 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1958 GMT 25 Mar 80 PA

[By Hernando Orozco]

[Text] Bogota, 25 Mar (LATIN)--The negotiations between the government representatives and the guerrillas occupying the Dominican Republic Embassy here will resume tomorrow, government sources announced today.

The official announcement was made just as the sixth round of talks between the two parties, held yesterday, renewed optimism over the possible solution of the crisis which started 28 days ago when guerrillas of the 19 April Movement (M-19) took over the embassy.

Diplomatic sources today confirmed that there is a possibility the extremists will release five hostages soon, all of them Colombians who hold no diplomatic positions. The M-19 group is still holding some 30 persons, including 11 ambassadors and 2 charges d'affaires. The sources added that the talks--which are being held with the participation of two government delegates, a guerrilla representative and Mexican Ambassador Ricardo Galan acting as a witness--will reportedly resume at 1430 (1930 GMT).

Three Hostages Released

PA252122 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2120 GMT 25 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Bogota, 25 Mar (LATIN)--Three hostages of the M-19 guerrillas in the occupied Dominican Embassy in Bogota were released this afternoon, the Colombian Red Cross has reported. The group was released at 1535 hours (2035 GMT).

More on Release

PA252213 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2150 GMT 25 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Bogota, 25 Mar--The release of these hostages, all of them Colombian, has increased to 27 the number of captives released by the extremists, who still hold 29 other hostages, including 11 ambassadors and 2 charges d'affaires.

The three persons released have been identified as Jorge Sendales, Fernando Betancourt and Jorge Caicedo. Sendales is an official of Bogota's municipal aqueducts and sewers enterprise. According to the authorities, Caicedo is a Dominican Embassy employee.

Aside from the 27 persons the guerrillas have released, Uruguayan Ambassador Fernando Gomez also spectacularly escaped from the embassy 1 week ago by jumping from a second floor window. Now more hostages have been released at a time when official sources have confirmed that the dialog between the government delegates and the guerrillas will be resumed tomorrow in search of a solution to the conflict.

Hostage Predicts Prompt Solution

PA260426 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0401 GMT 26 Mar 80 PA

[By Jorge Matiz]

[Excerpts] Bogota, 26 Mar (LATIN)--Colombian engineer Jorge Cendales, one of the three hostages released from the Dominican Embassy yesterday by the M-19 unit that is occupying the site, told LATIN that "a solution to the problem already exists. It is simply a matter of dialog and a few days." Referring to the reasons for the release of the three hostages, Cendales said: "The hostages were released today because the guerrillas feel that the government decree expediting military trials has resulted in the release of some of the persons who were being investigated for links to guerrilla groups and this is something." "The day after tomorrow (Thursday), they plan to release others," he added.

TURBAY EXPRESSES GRIEF OVER ROMERO'S DEATH TO POPE

PA260242 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 2330 GMT 25 Mar 80 PA

[Oscar Dominguez report from Narino Palace]

[Text] President Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala today expressed to His Holiness Pope John Paul II his grief and solidarity over the assassination of San Salvador Archbishop Msgr Oscar Romero.

The president sent a (?note) to John Paul II stating that our anguish is even greater if one considers that our fatherland is currently the victim of a terrorist action that is endangering the lives of innocent hostages.

The following is the full text of the Colombian president's note to the pope:

In view of the painful impossibility of extending to Your Holiness the expressions of great grief that overpower the Colombian Government and people over the cowardly assassination of San Salvador Archbishop Monsignor Romero, through Nuncio Angelo Acerbi, I am addressing Your Holiness in order to share the church's grief and other problems, which confirm our solidarity in this difficult test for us Catholics, who witness everywhere the advances of crime in its different forms. Our anguish becomes even more intense if one considers that our fatherland is currently the victim of a terrorist action that is endangering the lives of innocent hostages, including your own representative.

[Words indistinct] Your Holiness, the feelings of our concern and the expressions of our grief, I hope your prayers will be heard so that love and good sense among all men and peoples will definitely prevail over the whole world.

Devoutly, Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala, president of Colombia.

SEA DELIMITATION TALKS WITH VENEZUELA TO RESUME

PA241642 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 24 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Cali--The deliberations of the third meeting of the joint Colombian-Venezuelan Commission on Marine and Submarine Delimitation will be resumed on Thursday. Valle Department Governor Jaime Arizabaleta Calderon will chair the opening ceremony in a special suite on the eighth floor of the Intercontinental Hotel where the talks will be held behind closed doors until 2 April.

MEXICAN PRESIDENT DISCUSSES OIL, RELATIONS WITH JAPAN

OW251027 Tokyo KYODO in English 1005 GMT 25 Mar 80 OW

[Text] Mexico City, March 24 KYODO--Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo said Monday that Mexico would continue to avoid the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

In an exclusive interview with KYODO news service at the presidential palace, Lopez Portillo emphasized that his government had never thought of joining OPEC and that this policy would remain unchanged. Mexico intends to keep its identity as an oil-producing country and maintain its present status with OPEC, he said.

Referring to Mexico's supply of crude oil to Japan, Lopez Portillo said his country would like to export as much oil as possible to Japan but that the volume of oil exports is determined by such factors as production capacity, future development and the economic situation in the country. He explained that Mexico's recent decision to set the daily crude oil production volume at 2,500,000 barrels for the next few years was aimed at maintaining the country's daily export volume of 1,100,000 barrels.

Turning to Japan-Mexican relations, Lopez Portillo said that his visit to Japan in 1978 was very fruitful in expanding trade and economic relations between the two countries. Japanese Prime Minister Masayoshi Ohira's visit to Mexico scheduled for early in May would further strengthen the bilateral relations, he said. The Mexican leader said that Japan receives the highest priority among Asian countries in Mexico's foreign policy consideration. Lopez Portillo highly evaluated Ohira's pet concept of a pan-Pacific community, saying that he looks forward to embodiment of the scheme. He expressed the hope that Mexico, too, would be able to contribute to establishment of peace in the Asian region.

RUNAWAY IXTOC 1 OIL WELL FINALLY CAPPED

PA251544 Mexico City International Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 25 Mar 80 PA

[Text] The Ixtoc 1 oil well, which had been spilling oil in the Gulf of Mexico since 3 June 1979, was finally capped last night, Mexican Petroleum has reported. Through last week, the well had dumped over 3 million barrels of oil into the sea.

3,000 OCCUPY BUILDING TO PROTEST ELECTORAL 'FRAUD'

PA251255 Paris AFP in Spanish 2344 GMT 24 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Tapachula, Mexico, 24 Mar (AFP)--Some 3,000 persons of the Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution (PARM)--of the center right--today occupied the municipal palace of this city to denounce the fraud in the recent municipal elections.

Municipal presidential elections were held on 2 March and, according to the state authorities, the candidate of the Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI] (ruling) won them. The PARM militants claim that the state governor committed fraud so that the PRI candidate would be elected municipal president. The occupiers of the municipal palace announced they will remain in the place until the state government issues a resolution which will prevent an electoral fraud from being imposed on the people.

GOVERNMENT ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON ROMERO ASSASSINATION

PA260253 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 25 Mar 80 PA

[Text] The Government of the Republic of Panama today expressed profound consternation over the slaying yesterday of Msgr Oscar Arnulfo Romero, archbishop of San Salvador, as he was saying Mass.

In a communique released this afternoon by the Panamanian Foreign Ministry on behalf of the national government, Panama states that the death of the most venerate son of the Salvadoran Christian community is the highest expression of intolerance and violence, but it is also the death of a person who defended the Salvadoran people's right to life, justice and peace. It states that this is apparently the sacrifice and the price that had to be paid by a man profoundly committed to the teachings of the Latin American church and to democratic thinking.

The communique adds that the Panamanian Government feels that Monsignor Romero's death, in striking at our intimate conscience as Christians and democrats, will open the doors to the search for a just and proper solution to the crisis that is threatening the brother people of El Salvador, instead of closing them as his murderers intended.

May the thoughts of Monsignor Romero help us Central American people to find the path of justice and peace, the communique adds.

In the document, the Panamanian Government also expresses its solidarity and its conviction that the causes of the death of the archbishop of San Salvador will be understood and met with feelings of patriotism, unity and a realistic awareness of the factors involved in the crisis.

Panama will send an official delegation to Monsignor Romero's funeral.

POLITICAL LEADERS, NATIONAL GUARD OFFICERS HOLD TALKS

PA231824 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2335 GMT 22 Mar 80 PA

[Excerpts] The call for a national unity agreement which could be considered something like turning over a new leaf, the participation in national activities, a social pact for the country's socioeconomic planning, the review and reorganization of the country's political institution and the need for the withdrawal of the National Guard were discussed today by the Liberal Christian Democratic and Agrarian Laborist parties before 85 National Guard officers attending a political training seminar at Farallon.

The meeting began at 0800 and ended early in the afternoon with an ideological debate between the representatives of the three opposition parties and the officers present.

The Liberal Party [PL] was represented by Arnulfo Escalona and Ezequiel Rodriguez. The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] was represented by Guillermo Cochez and Ricardo Arias Calderon. The Agrarian Labor Party [PLA] was represented by Luis Barletta dn Eduardo Valdez. The three parties presented to the National Guard officers the ideological foundation of their respective organizations and spoke on the national situation.

While Arnulfo Escalona said the National Guard must make a real and complete withdrawal from political affairs, Eduardo Valdez spoke on economic matters and Ricardo Arias Calderon spoke on political matters based on economic factors.

Arnulfo Escalona said: [begin recording] There is a spirit prevailing that we do not want Panama to confront a crisis demanding a military solution. This spirit prevails and the time has come when it has been easy to ascertain that the National Guard and political parties can talk, even of politics.

[Question] Dr Escalona, in this respect, with what sector do you have a better understanding, with the military or the civilians now in power?

[Answer] It is a fact that political parties have no contact with the civilian government. In my personal case, through a high-level commission in which I participated, both the government and the people were able to find solutions at the constitutional level to implement constitutional changes, because of the faith we had. However, the government did not keep its word and the agreement reached by the high-level commission was ignored by the civilian government.

The civilian authorities have withdrawn. There have been no more talks with them. Today we had our first experience--which I consider excellent, productive and patriotic--between the National Guard command and the political parties. Therefore, we do believe that the meeting has been positive and that both the National Guard commands and the political parties have reached positive conclusions that will lead us to new talks [words indistinct] with these new meetings. [end recording].

In an effort to learn about the National Guard's views, Lt Col Roberto Diaz Herrera was asked the following question:

[Begin recording] [Question] Colonel, what are the objectives achieved through this meeting between political party representatives and National Guard officials?

[Answer] We consider it very important because we invited several parties and they accepted, which, and this must be emphasized, oppose the present regime of President Royo. This is important because they had noted in the past that we have kept the officers as a sort of captive audience to only those parties that defend the present government.

This meeting has progressed this morning in a most cordial, calm and, I would say, reflective atmosphere. The participation of the Agrarian Labor Party, the Christian Democratic Party and the Liberal Party through their well-known leaders has allowed our officers--mainly lieutenants--to hear their expositions. Their presentations, at our request, included their bylaws, programs and doctrines and their criticisms of the present regime. The speakers also voiced their concerns and viewpoints. I believe we have all gained something from this meeting because we were able to hear and be heard. Despite the fact that we are part of the National Guard, we do not represent the entire National Guard. Our institution has a doctrine and uniform way of thinking. We discuss matters among ourselves and later, through the proper channels, we establish a doctrine.

We believe, however, that we must strive to improve our doctrine by listening to others, and on this occasion we have done just that. The more opinions we hear from various persons who wish to comment on the national scene, the closer we get to obtaining a real understanding of the nation's general situation.

[Question] Since you refer to listening to the opinion of all political parties in the country, the Workers' Socialist Party and the Communist Party, that is, the People's Party are presently in the process of registration. Will you also hear their opinions at these seminars?

[Answer] There is no doubt that we will have an open door for any political group that wishes to talk with us. [end recording]

COSTA RICA

CARAZO DEPLORES DEATH OF ARCHBISHOP ROMERO

PA252027 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 25 Mar 80 PA

[Statement by Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo Odio on the assassination of Salvadoran Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero--recorded; date, place not given]

[Text] He was a factor of equilibrium for the Salvadorans in the hard struggle between the extreme rightwing and leftwing in El Salvador. He was a uniting factor. He was concerned over the human rights of the Salvadoran people and his vibrant messages resulted in the logical reaction of many, creating great controversy. This was so precisely because he was a man who represented the feelings of the Salvadoran people. When I say the people I do not mean the extreme right organized to destroy the people's aspirations or the extreme left engaged in violence. He represented the just concept of a country which hopes for social changes, economic improvement and justice.

I am distressed by his disappearance. I feel that Central America and the world have lost a great value. I join all those who deplore his death and only hope that his words, thoughts and best wishes for the Salvadorans will soon become a reality. Let him rest in peace, but let his words continue to enlighten the minds and paths of the Central Americans.

Demonstration Staged

PA260250 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 26 Mar 80 PA

[Text] This afternoon, approximately 200 citizens marched through some of the streets in downtown San Jose to protest the militarism existing in El Salvador.

The demonstrators marched to the Salvadoran Embassy carrying placards mentioning the death of Archbishop Romero and calling for freedom for the oppressed people of El Salvador. In front of the embassy, some individuals made speeches expressing solidarity with the martyrs and workers of the Salvadoran people.

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS TO BE ESTABLISHED WITH UAE

PA250250 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 25 Mar 80 PA

[Text] The governments of the United Arab Emirates and of Costa Rica have decided to establish diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level according to a joint communique signed by the two countries.

It was learned from Foreign Ministry sources that ambassadors will be appointed in the next few weeks. In this manner, our country is broadening its horizons through friendly relations with other countries.

EL SALVADOR

NEBULOUS LEFTIST GROUP CLAIMS IT KILLED ROMERO

PA251534 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1455 GMT 25 Mar 80 PA

[Telephone report by Carlos Samayoa Martinez from San Salvador Radio YSU--presumably live]

[Text] A number of dynamite attacks was staged early this morning in several parts of the capital. Several banking offices and the International Telephone and Telegraph building in a residential area were dynamited. The attacks were claimed by the underground Revolutionary

Peoples Army in a telephone conservation to YSU. It claimed that they were staged to protest the latest government repression and the dastardly killing of San Salvador Archbishop Msgr Oscar Arnulfo Romero.

This incident has been universally condemned here. It has been attributed to the extreme right although the self-styled Salvadoran Proletarian Brigades [Brigadas Proletarias Salvadorenas--BPS] issued a communique [claiming credit for it] last night, but it has not been given any credence because the existence of that alleged group had been unknown. The BPS communique states that the monsignor was executed because he was considered to be guilty of collaborating with Yankee imperialist plans in a betrayal of the real aspirations of the proletariat.

The Peoples Revolutionary Bloc today released a communique also condemning what it calls the heinous murder of Msgr Oscar Arnulfo Romero. His body will lie in state for 72 hours. Thousands upon thousands of people are now marching in front of the coffin containing the mortal remains of the late archbishop of San Salvador, whose death has had an enormous impact across all social strata in the Central American country.

The Salvadoran Government held an urgent meeting last night and decreed a 3-day period of national mourning due to the death of Monsignor Romero, whom it called a man of peace. The metropolitan curia has also declared a 3-day mourning period and private schools have closed indefinitely.

Further Details on Bombings

PA251518 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1250 GMT 25 Mar 80 PA

[Exclusive report from San Salvador by our special correspondent Demetrio Olaciregui]

[Excerpts] At least 10 explosions and machinegun bursts were heard this morning throughout San Salvador. The bombs were placed in banks and stores, and it was reported that two bombs exploded near the National Palace. It was reported that bombs exploded at the Salvadoran Bank, Central Reserve Bank, APRISA [private bank, expansion unknown], Savings and Loan Association and other banks. Another bomb exploded at the Siman store belonging to one of the Salvadoran oligarchic families. Two more bombs exploded near the National Palace. It was not reported where the machineguns were fired. The bombs destroyed bank walls and nearby stores. No casualties have been reported.

In Santa Tecla, 25 km west of San Salvador, at least 5 bombs exploded in banks and private firms belonging to the Salvadoran oligarchy. In Santa Ana, 63 km west of San Salvador, at least 5 explosions were heard.

MORALES INTERVIEWED ON ROMERO'S ASSASSINATION

PA250533 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0400 GMT 25 Mar 80 PA

[Jose Hernandez telephone interview with Salvadoran junta member Dr Jose Antonio Morales Ehrlich; time not given--recorded]

[Text] [Question] We would like to know the position of the government junta regarding the assassination of the archbishop of San Salvador Msgr Oscar Arnulfo Romero.

[Answer] I would like to say on behalf of the junta and on my own behalf that for us it was a very harsh blow, because Monsignor Romero was a man who always denounced all violations of human rights. He struggled for his people and so he has died, struggling for his people. It is an unmentionable crime. The junta has declared 3 days of national mourning. We have promised the people that we will do everything possible to identify the assassin and to punish him as he deserves, because, I repeat, it is the most reprehensible thing that could have been done.

This crime has not only been committed against the person of a man of Monsignor Romero's stature; it is also a crime against the Catholic Church, against the Salvadoran people and against all people, because the archbishop had acquired great stature in his struggle for the poor. He had acquired international stature.

I really have no words with which to express the sorrow felt by all Salvadorans and the government. We feel great consternation and we ask the other peoples to show us the understanding that we are asking of Salvadorans--understanding and reflection--because there may now be violent reactions in the country. Unfortunately, just as the person who killed him had no internal scruples against committing an act of this kind, with unforeseeable consequences for my country. [sentence as heard]

Therefore, we are asking the people not to break down and not to act in a manner that runs contrary to the archbishop's way of thinking, because he desired neither death, sorrow nor violence for the people. On the contrary, he harshly criticized repression. He harshly criticized murders from the Christian viewpoint and he criticized barbaric actions against his people.

Now you can understand that we are waiting. One has to expect a reaction from the people in response to the death of a beloved man, and we hope that the reaction will be one of reflection and of channeling their sorrow into paths of peace and that this will serve us to build rather than to destroy, to build the Christian society for which we have all (?struggled).

[Question] Dr Morales Ehrlich, you have mentioned reflection as the proper path at this time. Lamentably, the situation is somewhat difficult in El Salvador because of the death of Msgr Romero. Does the junta, particularly the military sector, have a plan to forestall any kind of reaction representing a repudiation of this act committed today in San Salvador?

[Answer] The armed forces have also condemned the act, the crime. It is an unmentionable crime. On behalf of the government I would like to say that, just as we are awaiting, not just awaiting, but expecting that the people will react rationally, so also have we taken all measures to maintain order in response to abnormal reactions provoked by organizations which are going to take advantage of the situation to harshly attack this regime.

This is logical. Unfortunately, there will be many who will try to take advantage of the archbishop's death to bloody our country. I trust in God and in the Salvadoran people, that we will be able to maintain our prudence and serenity and manage to overcome this crisis.

As far as military measures are concerned, we have done nothing to forestall events, but rather, this is a phase of waiting for the people to react in order that the armed forces, along with the people, may establish a new system.

This is what I most regret; that this should happen after we have begun an agrarian reform program in which the peasants and the armed forces have again come into (?contact), in which there is harmony, in which the land is being turned over to the peasants. The reform of the banking system has been a total success. No one even remembers the old banking system now. Banking has been nationalized and everything is proceeding normally.

Foreign trade in coffee has also been nationalized. Just as we were finding the path and trying to find it together, they strike this blow at us, which must certainly have very momentous consequences for the country.

I hope--and to a large extent one must have faith in the people--that they will be able to react in such a manner as to rise above their sorrow and avoid excesses. I repeat that I hope that this will be the case.

[Question] Thank you, Dr Morales Ehrlich, for these statements for Panama's Televisora Nacional.

BPR CALLS FOR STRIKE, MOURNING TO PROTEST MURDER

PA252126 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1805 GMT 25 Mar 80 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 25 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--The Leftist Peoples Revolutionary Bloc (BPR) today called for an 8-day nationwide strike and national mourning for the death of Msgr Oscar Arnulfo Romero, archbishop of San Salvador.

Romero was killed on Monday afternoon when several unidentified persons shot him in the heart shortly after the prelate had said Mass in a cancer hospital in the Salvadoran capital. A spokesman for the Marxist group told ACAN-EFE today that "the assassination of Monsignor Romero is a severe blow to the popular revolutionary movement."

BPR activists are still occupying the Metropolitan Cathedral of San Salvador, where the remains of the prelate are supposed to lie in state beginning tomorrow.

Two priests told ACAN-EFE early this morning that an agreement had already been reached with the BPR to vacate the church, but the spokesman for the leftist group denied this report, indicating that the group plans to remain there to denounce "government repression."

The BPR protest will include a general strike of commerce and industry for the next 8 days. The BPR spokesman said that the group was appealing to the people to join in the protest.

The last time a nationwide strike was called by the Revolutionary Coordinating Board of the Masses, to which the BPR belongs, approximately 60 persons were killed in the capital and the interior of the country in what the authorities described as confrontations with the public forces.

GUATEMALA

GOVERNMENT WARNS EXTREMISTS TO STOP VYING FOR POWER

PA260004 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1824 GMT 25 Mar 80 PA

[Excerpts] Guatemala City, 25 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--The Guatemalan Government today warned the underground extreme leftwing and rightwing organizations "to stop their illegal efforts to gain power."

A statement issued today condemning the wave of violence experienced in Guatemala in the past few days with a toll of 35 dead says "the government forces are ready to let the full weight of the law fall on the politicians who are illegally causing regrettable violence and the loss of human lives."

Since the weekend the country has been torn by a fight to the death between the underground leftwing and rightwing organizations.

A police spokesman said the violent confrontation between the leftwing and rightwing groups is due to the uncovering last week of a clandestine cemetery in Chimaltenango Province where 30 bodies were found.

In today's statement, the Guatemalan Government noted that it has much data on the activities of the illicit organizations and that it is ready to firmly repress them to keep order.

NICARAGUA

FSLN CONDEMNS ASSASSINATION OF ROMERO

PA252129 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 25 Mar 80 PA

[Communique issued by National Directorate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front--read by announcer]

[Text] In view of the brutal assassination of Msgr Oscar Arnulfo Romero, archbishop of San Salvador, the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] expresses its complete repudiation and solidarity with the indignation gripping the Salvadoran people today, which is also shaped by our Nicaraguan brothers.

A man like Archibishop Romero, ardent defender of the cause of the humble, could only have been assassinated by the enemies of the Salvadoran people, the bourgeoisie and exploiters who advocate foreign intervention in that country to check the majority's hopes for freedom.

This wanton crime committed by the Salvadoran reactionaries against Monsignor Romero is also a crime against the struggle of the Salvadoran people and of all peoples of the world fighting for liberation. For this reason, we repudiate this assassination and urge our people to join the expressions of protest of the Government of National Reconstruction and to express their own condemnation of the shameful assassination of that clergyman, who was a symbol of the true values of Christianity.

Ever since the first government military junta was installed on 15 October, our organization has been watching over the events in El Salvador with utmost concern. We were witness to its own crisis in view of its inability to give a satisfactory response to the demands of the Salvadoran majorities. The new junta installed in January has even stepped up repression against the people despite its efforts to pass as a progressive and reformist government.

This was the very situation Monsignor Romero denounced when he voiced his solidarity with the Movement for Unity recently launched by the Salvadoran people's and revolutionary organizations. It was launched because the reforms are unacceptable within a framework of repression and murder.

Neither we nor the Salvadoran people can attach any credibility now to the junta's disclaimer of responsibility for the brutal repression that has been unleashed against the people, as a result of which Monsignor Romero was assassinated yesterday. The repression has left untouched the rightist paramilitary organizations and the reactionary oligarchy, and has only vented its fury on the Salvadoran people, its revolutionary organizations and their defenders, like Archbishop Romero. Those killed, tortured and jailed are only from the side that demands true justice and freedom.

The FSLN rejects and condemns the genocide being committed against the Salvadoran people and denounces the attempts to intervene and to strengthen the Salvadoran junta militarily on the part of the U.S. Government or any other force, against which the martyred archbishop took a strong stand.

His blood, like that of thousands of Salvadorans, will not have been spilled in vain. We are certain the Salvadoran people will prevail and that all Salvadoran and world forces which love peace, freedom and social justice will stand alongside them. Free fatherland or death!

Managua 25 March 1980

(Signed) National Directorate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front.

Mass Held for Romero

PA260320 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0048 GMT 26 Mar 80 PA

[Excerpts] Managua, 25 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Msgr Miguel Obando y Bravo said here today that Msgr Oscar Arnulfo Romero, the assassinated archbishop of San Salvador, "always believed more in the force of truth than in the forces of lying, injustice and hatred." Obando y Bravo, president of the Episcopal secretariat of Central America and Panama as well as Managua's archbishop, officiated at an outdoor Mass with a group of priests, in memory of the archbishop killed yesterday in San Salvador.

The religious event was held at the Plaza of the Revolution, here in the capital, where thousands of Nicaraguans paid tribute to and prayed for the soul of the assassinated archbishop. The government junta members, the Sandinist National Liberation Front directorate, the Cabinet, the diplomatic corps and thousands of Nicaraguans were in attendance.

According to Monsignor Obando y Bravo, the Salvadoran archbishop preached through the testimony of his life and always said that "hatred is an absurdity in human life. Hatred exists, but it is as senseless a reality as war, which destroys man himself."

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Father Miguel D'Escoto Brockman also delivered a sermon, disclosing that Nicaragua had offered Monsignor Romero protection and all he might need at these difficult moments for his country. D'Escoto disclosed that a few days later, Monsignor Romero asked to be understood in a Christian way and to be allowed to stay in El Salvador because as a shepherd he could not leave his people.

Monsignor Romero said that Nicaragua's offer encouraged him considerably to continue accepting "the risks of the moment" alongside his people. According to the foreign minister, through his stand, Monsignor Romero revealed his human and Christian qualities.

LE MONDE INTERVIEWS RAMIREZ, RODRIGUEZ ON GOALS

LD211415 Paris LE MONDE in French 21 Mar 80 pp 1, 3 LD

[Francis Pisani interview with Nicaraguan government junta member Sergio Ramirez and Sandinist National Liberation Front leadership member Bayardo Arce in Brussels: "Our Relations with the United States Are Based on Realism"--date of interview not specified]

[Text] [Question] How do you define the economic policy you have followed since you came to power on 19 July 1979?

Sergio Ramirez: The measures we have taken in these 8 months enable us to say that our revolutionary process is irreversible, even if our country's economy is poor and dependent. In our view that is the essential point. The profound changes which have been made in the economic sphere rest on three pillars: the nationalization of banks and insurance companies, the nationalization of foreign trade, and the nationalization of all natural resources, especially the mines.

[Question] What is the state of the agrarian reform which was started as soon as your government came to power?

Sergio Ramirez: This is the fourth pillar of our edifice. It started with the property owned by Somoza and the Somozists and has just been completed by placing all the land occupied by the peasants since the victory at the state's disposal. The former proprietors will be compensated and, as from now, any further expropriation will take place within the framework of the law. We do not want spontaneous action to paralyze production, which we are making every effort to increase.

Our second main effort is in job creation, since unemployment now affects 30 percent of the active population. We want to reduce it to its "normal" level of 20 percent before the end of the year.

We will concentrate our efforts on agriculture and construction, notably through development of the country's social infrastructure.

[Question] In this context, what is your short-term and medium-term economic policy?

Sergio Ramirez: The first objective of our economic recovery plan is to restore the 1978 level before the end of the year. A special effort must be made in the sphere of agro-industrial products (cotton, meat, coffee and so forth) which are our main sources of foreign currency. However, at the same time we must develop our basic food production to eliminate the need to import.

[Question] What is the private sector's attitude toward you?

Sergio Ramirez: Some employers really want to join the revolutionary process. Others are trying to cash in on their economic participation in the hope of regaining some of the political power they had in Somoza's time. Finally, a third group supported from outside would like the revolution to abandon the methods by which it exercises its political power, such as the Sandinist defense committees or the Workers' Confederation. That is ridiculous.

The aim of our revolution is not to improve capitalism. On the contrary, it is radically to change our country's unjust structures. In this context, private enterprise has a role to play. It will be able to make profits, but no longer unreasonable profits. The employers must now think about all of Nicaragua's progress and well-being and not the progress and well-being of a small group of Nicaraguans.

A Silent Exploit

[Question] Have you received all the aid you expected from abroad?

Sergio Ramirez: We very quickly realized that we would not solve anything by accepting unlimited debts and we decided not to borrow more than $400 million from abroad (our GNP is normally $1.4 billion). This figure has almost been attained. We even think that in this sphere we have accomplished one of the revolution's unsung exploits: On average these loans have been granted to us at 4.5- percent interest, with 10 years before we need to start paying and a repayment period of 35 years.

[Question] What progress have you made in the process of changing the Sandinist National Liberation Front into a party?

Bayardo Arce: The creation of the Sandinist Party is a relatively lengthy process. We have started it by establishing grassroots Sandinist committees, which comprise our old members according to very flexible criteria--the people who collaborated with us during the war and any supporters who want to join. [paragraph continues]

At the same time, we have reorganized the national leadership and set up leadership committees in every province of the country. In addition, at the beginning of March we set up a patriotic revolutionary bloc grouping together five of the main parties and the Sandinist Front, according to the following criteria: Defense and development of the revolution, anti-imperialism, and support for the national reconstruction program. Some groups have remained outside this patriotic bloc, although we have urged them to join.

Not $1 for Armaments

[Question] Will there be elections in Nicaragua soon?

Bayardo Arce: The content of democracy cannot be the same in Europe and in a country like ours. For our working people, workers and peasants' democracy above all means access to education, health care, housing worthy of the name, and leisure. We cannot waste our time and money to reaffirm what the people have already clearly shown by their overwhelming support for the rebellion--namely that they are Sandinists. We prefer to mobilize 200,000 young people to teach half the country to read and write than to keep a whole bureaucratic machine busy organizing elections.

Sergio Ramirez: It is more important for our people to take part in an organized way in municipal administration or in active and critical monitoring of ministries, as they have already done, than to vote in elections. The North Americans imposed that type of democracy on us in 1927. You must understand that we did not launch our struggle to obtain mere political modifications, to have elections every 4 years or to change presidents regularly. We fought to bring about a radical change in a situation of which the dictatorship was just one consequence--a situation of complete dependence and injustice. Our revolution's first duty is to carry through the elimination of this injustice and dependence.

[Question] You promised to respect freedom of the press. However, you have banned the Maoist newspaper PUEBLO....

Bayardo Arce: This decision was one of the security measures which we were forced to take against a group of people of dubious origins who were trying to spark off a civil war. These individuals were using their newspaper to incite the "workers to seize power," at the same time as they were making military plans. A police operation led to the discovery of three of their caches containing more than 200 weapons, including several pieces of light artillery. However, it was more profitable for our enemies abroad to portray the banning of PUEBLO as an attack on press freedom rather than a measure aimed at preventing a specific counterrevolutionary attempt.

[Question] How have you solved the problems of training and obtaining equipment for your army?

Bayardo Arce: Most of our technical advisers have been supplied by the Panamanians, and we benefited from a few lightning missions by the Cubans. As regards weapons, we have submitted requests throughout the world. We have no doubt that some will eventually be met, since we have submitted them to the United States and the Soviet Union and Belgium, for instance. However, this problem is particularly difficult to solve since we have requested gifts of weapons. We refuse to spend a single dollar on arms because our country is too poor. Fortunately, Somoza had planned for a long war, and we have the means to defend ourselves thanks to the weapons recovered from his army.

[Question] What is the state of your relations with the United States?

Bayardo Arce: Washington did not foresee our complete victory, and it did all it could to save Somoza right to the last. However, since 19 July we have seen the emergence of what I would call a "pragmatic syndrome" on both sides. The United States understood that its embassy in Managua could no longer function as a proconsulate and that it was dealing with a responsible government and with a small country which is poor but which demands respect. For our part, we understood that the United States is close and that it is a power in all senses of the term.

For the past 8 months our relations have in varying degrees been inspired by this eminently realistic state of mind. The $75 million loan which the Carter Administration proposed to give us without our having requested it is an excellent illustration of that. For Washington it was a question of inaugurating a new era of relations with Latin America by showing that it was possible to help an openly revolutionary government which did not accept either concessions or conditions.

Unfortunately it only took a wave of war hysteria for the rightwing in Congress to return to the attitudes which prevailed when the United States occupied us militarily. It wants to humiliate us by imposing conditions on its aid.

However, we will not accept conditions from anybody, and in the final analysis we do not rule out the possibility of rejecting this loan.

Admiration for Cuba

[Question] Why did you abstain at the United Nations during the debate on the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan?

Sergio Ramirez: In the view of the Nicaraguan people the United States has no moral authority to condemn military interventions. Our sense of decency prevented us from joining those who voted for the United States against the Soviet Union. Furthermore, we thought that the problem could not be separated from a detailed study of the militarization of the Indian Ocean, the situation in Iran and Pakistani warmongering, to which India had already drawn the world's attention.

[Question] In that event, why did you not vote for the Soviet Union?

Sergio Ramirez: Because we fully support the principle of nonintervention, which we clearly expressed. However, the international press did not bother to say so.

[Question] How do you view the situation in Central America?

Sergio Ramirez: Somoza was a considerable destabilizing factor because he interfered in the whole region and benifited from the control he had over vast economic and military power. The merefact of overthrowing him was therefore a contribution to the region's stability. Today the country with the most reservations toward us is Guatemala. We have also had difficulties with Honduras, due mainly to our lack of experience. These problems have been overcome by dialog--a constant factor in the Sandinist revolution. As for relations with the Salvadoran junta, they are extremely cordial and even friendly, although the situation in that country is extremely unstable.

[Question] Do you think there is any possibility of a U.S. intervention in Central America?

Bayardo Arce: We would condemn such an intervention if it were to take place. Our condemnation would be political, of course, because we do not have the means to do anything about it. Our problem is how to rebuild our country.

Sergio Ramirez: President Carter has placed his condemnation of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan too much on the level of principles to be able to send in the "Marines" when the development of the situation in a Central American country does not please him.

[Question] Do you think that Guatemala could intervene?

Sergio Ramirez: There is indeed a terrorist rightwing in that country which is armed and powerful and wishes to surround itself with protective ramparts. However, the main dangers threatening it are in Guatemala itself.

[Question] What kind of relations do you have with Cuba?

Rayardo Arce: I often feel that Cuba is synonymous with "leper" in Europe. We have fraternal relations based on respect with that country. We have the greatest admiration for the Cubans' internationalist spirit which has been raised to the level of one of their revolution's fundamental values. They stand out in the world because they are capable of sharing their scant wealth with peoples who are even poorer than they. For instance, they gave us the equivalent of $50 million. Thanks to the 1,200 teachers they sent us, we have been able to start 620 schools which will enable us to bring 48,000 children into our education system, this would not have been possible without them. However, the aid which possibly moved the Nicaraguans most is that sent by the small island of Greneda, which amounted to $5,000!

IAPA DELEGATION MAKES PRESS FREEDOM 'INSPECTION'

PA241929 Paris AFP in Spanish 0313 GMT 22 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Managua, 21 Mar (AFP)--Sixteen Inter-American Press Association [IAPA] members received assurances here today that freedom of the press is respected in Nicaragua.

The IAPA members, headed by their president, George Beebe of the Miami HERALD, made a 24-hour visit to this country to make an onsite investigation into freedom of the press and to honor journalist Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, who was killed on 10 January 1978.

The visiting jouranlists voiced their concern regarding freedom of the press in Nicaragua to the junta members, the culture minister and the president of the Union of Journalists of Nicaragua [UPN].

During its recently concluded assembly in San Jose, Costa Rica, the IAPA expressed doubts that there is an absolute freedom of the press in Nicaragua and affirmed that the UPN, which it described as a parastate entity, controls the exercise of journalism here.

UPN President Danilo Aguirre explained to the IAPA members that in fact the press law, which he described as transitory, requires that Nicaraguan journalists belong to the UPN.

The revolutionary government, he said, grants us this power to purge journalism of many unqualified individuals who exercised it at the downfall of the dictatorship. Nevertheless, we have not discriminated against anyone for political reasons, Aguirre reiterated.

At present there are 350 affiliates throughout the country, including former staff writers of the Somoza family's newspapers and radio stations.

Aguirre maintained that the suppression of the newspaper EL PUEBLO cannot be classified as a violation of freedom of the press, since its editors and staff writers were involved in a plot which turned this publication and its staff into a court case.

He also stated that every person qualified by law who has a college degree or has been a journalist for 3 consecutive years, may choose to become affiliated with the UPN. Likewise, any person may become a publisher without any further requirements and without being subjected to pressures to follow a specific informative line.

Aguirre also referred to the suppression of some radio newscasts. With regard to the case of Noticiero Mil and the expulsion of its director Oscar Montalban from the UPN, he said that the case is still open and the sanctioned journalist is fully entitled to appeal for the annulment of the assembly's decision.

Lastly, Aguirre insisted that the present press law is temporary and that the UPN cannot be considered as a parastate entity nor as a follower of the political line of the Sandinist Front.

CABEZAS LACAYO VISITS CUBA, PRAISES 'SOLIDARITY'

PA251957 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0330 GMT 22 Mar 80 PA

[Text] Santa Clara, Cuba--Nicaraguan Comdr Omar Cabezas Lacayo has praised Cuba's solidarity with his country during a political event held at the Central University. Cabezas Lacayo is heading a Nicaraguan University delegation.

The Nicaraguan commander praised the support of the masses for the Sandinist revolution against the offensive of the bourgeoisie and imperialism. He stressed that the Nicaraguan people have the political and military power in their hands and the support of the progressive people of the world. The Nicaraguan delegation is attending a program to exchange experiences with several schools of the university and the medical and pedagogic institutes of this city. The delegation is made up of 11 persons including Mariano Fiallos, rector of the Nicaraguan Autonomous Univeristy and Joaquin Solis and Silvia Villagra, deans of the schools of medicine and educational sciences respectively.

BRIEFS

CHILDREN'S TRIP TO CUBA--Approximately 260 Nicaraguan children and youths are getting ready to leave for Cuba, where they will attend secondary school. The 10-to 17-year-olds are taking an orientation session in a Carazo Department school. This group will be joined by a similar contingent of students from Managua Department. They will be accompanied by six Nicaraguan teachers who will teach them Nicaraguan history and geography. [Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Mar 80 PA]

ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT ON UN ENVOY AVERTED

FL252225 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2206 GMT 25 Mar 80 FL

[Text] An attempt on the life of the Cuban permanent representative to the United Nations was frustrated in New York today by personnel of the Cuban diplomatic mission. The Cuban diplomats detected a plastic explosive device before it exploded. It was set up under the automobile of the Cuban ambassaior to be activated by remote control.

According to U.S. experts in explosives who went to the area, if the bomb had exploded, it would have cost the lives of numerous persons in the surrounding area. The automobile was parked in front of the residence of Cuban Permanent Representative Raul Roa Kouri located in a downtown area of New York quite close to the famous Metropolitan Museum of Art, a place of tourist interest which many people visit.

The group of terrorists of Cuban origin that calls itself Omega 7 claimed responsibility for the abortive attempt on the life of Raul Roa Kouri which endangered the lives of Cuban diplomatic personnel and U.S. citizens in the surrounding area.

The type of explosive used has been identified as C-44, the same one used a few years ago by other terrorist groups which, under the direction of the CIA, carried out sabotage against Cuban civilian targets.

The Cuban mission to the United Nations has been the object of six bombing attacks from 1976 to date and U.S. authorities still have not arrested any of the perpetrators.

SALVADORAN REPRESENTATIVE CONDEMNS ARCHBISHOP'S MURDER

FL252344 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 25 Mar 80 FL

[Statement by (Sergio Rivas), representative of the Farabundo Marti Popular Liberation Forces of El Salvador--presumably recorded, place and date not given]

[Text] The Communist Party of El Salvador, the National Resistance and the Farabundo Marti Popular Liberation Forces--FPL--denounce before all peoples of the world the cowardly assassination of San Salvador Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero, committed yesterday, 25 March [as heard]. This crime is part of the wave of repression unleashed by Yankee imperialism and the Christian Democratic military tyranny in El Salvador. It constitutes another proof of the degree of barbarism and desperation they have reached in the face of the unstoppable advance of the popular revolutionary struggle.

Monsignor Romero was an untiring and courageous defender of the rights of the people, he was fighting against massacres, genocide and the shameless imperialist intervention in El Salvador. This valuable life that has been snuffed out is added to the thousands of Salvadorans who at an average of more than 50 a day give their generous lives in the heroic people's struggle for their definitive liberation which today is advancing victoriously.

In making this denunciation, we also declare our strongest protest of this savage abuse and, at the same time, we ask all democratic, progressive and revolutionary forces for a worldwide condemnation of this crime and support for and solidarity with the just struggle of the people of El Salvador and their revolutionary organizations.

Liberation or death; united until final victory.

URUGUAYAN SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE HELD 24-26 MARCH

FI242004 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 24 Mar 80 FL

[Text] A conference of solidarity with the Uruguayan people has opened at the Palace of Conventions in Havana City. It is sponsored by the Afro-Asian-Latin American people's solidarity organization, AALAPSO. During this conference several sessions will be held to analyze the following topics: fascism in Uruguay, Liber Seregni and the political prisoners, and tricontinental solidarity with the Uruguayan peoples. The event will be held from 24-26 March. AALAPSO Secretary General Melba Hernandez and Central Committee America Department Chief Manuel Pineiro attended the opening session. Also present were (Hugo Villar), the current president of Uruguay's Broad Front, (Geronimo Cardoso), a Broad Front member and members of the AALAPSO Secretariat.

The opening speech was made by Melba Hernandez, who noted the importance of this conference of solidarity with the Uruguayan peoples. (Hugo Villar) gave a lecture in which he made a historical analysis of his people's struggle against the fascism imposed on them by the oligarchy and Yankee imperialism. (Villar) said that in June 1973, the fascist oligarchy engineered a coup e'etat to crush resistance from trade unions and the people. Since then it has imposed a regime of terror, repression and torture and has filled the jails with political prisoners. (Hugo Villar) described the present Uruguayan regime's foreign policy, charging that it has intensified its relations with South Africa and has brought out into the open its racist and fascist leanings. He said that the regime is moving toward a military alliance by the name of South Atlantic [Alliance], a pact of aggression sponsored by U.S. imperialism. He accused the Uruguayuan Government of having close ties with Zionism and of plotting along with the Tel Aviv regime and the United States to exterminate the Palestinian people.

The present interim president of Uruguay's Broad Front expressed gratitude for the solidarity given to his people by the progressive peoples and forces of the world, especially Cuba. He concluded: [Begin (Villar) recording] We know that huge and powerful forces exist in the continent and in the world to head off fascism and to defeat it in this way in the places where it has been able to establish itself. But to achieve this objective we must promote and develop a great antifascist movement made up of governments, peoples, all democratic forces in the world. This antifascist movement whose promotion is one of AALAPSO's objectives, will isolate fascist dictatorships, increase solidarity with parties, fronts and organizations that are fighting for the freedom of their countries, and will undoubtedly contribute to the defense and strengthening of democracy in the countries where it exists. [end recording]

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CLASS STRUCTURE OPENS 26 MAR

PA250407 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Mar 80 PA

[Text] The International Conferenceon Class Structure in Latin America will open on Wednesday at the Palace of Conventions in Havana.

Delegations from communist parties and other revolutionary organizations of Latin America and the Caribbean will attend the conference which is sponsored by the Communist Party of Cuba and the magazine INTERNACIONAL.

The delegates will study and discuss the class structure problems of countries in the area as well as the penetration of foreign enterprises in the economic structures of Latin America and the Caribbean and its effect in the revolutionary struggles in the area.